7: Shklovsky -- 47 T-3 (1891-92) 1916 Yakut

116, 153, 186, 871

"The Yakuts are, no doubt, a very capable race. Their memory is excellent. In all the Yakutsk schools 45 per cent. of the scholars are Yakuts (368 to 428). These scholars are very proud of their race, and modestly call themselves the Greeks of the North, but Reclus gives tham a less flattering description. "

7: Shklovsky -- 48 T-3 (1891-92) 1916 Yakut
116 871, 565

"Unfortunately, it is not possible to say anything good of Yakutian education in the remote districts. The Oulooss must send every year a certain number of Yakuts to be educated, and as the 'aristocracy' of the place object to having their children educated at the same school as the very meanest and poorest, these Yakut children receive their educatuion, not from the priest, but from the deacon. Alas, what an education! The little Yakuts, after years of painful struggling with the mysteries of A and B, return to Oulooss, not only unable to read, but even to understand Russian."

7: Shklovsky -- 218 T-3 (1891-92) 1916 Yakut
116. 191. 871. 177.87
637.87 Russia

"Lately the nember of students at Yakutsk has increased, but not long ago the majority of merchants and traders were entirely illiterate, and even the most aristocratic among them spoke only Yakutian. Now there is a seminary, also a secondary school, preparatory schools for girls, a Yakutian missionary school, and five municipal elementary schools. The total number of scholars in all the schools is 488, out of 6,499 inhabitants. The secondary school was founded in 1892 and the account is interesting. Thirteen years previously the town authorities asked permission from the Government to open a secondary school for modern subjects without classics, and permission was granted to open a preparatory school in classics. The Yakuts, who only imperfectly understood Russian, were compelled to learn the details of Latin grammar, by means of which they would of course bring civilisation and culture to their native Oulooss! And even now the scholastic system leaves much to be desired."

7: Shklovsky -- 220 T-3 (1891-92) 1916 Yakut
116, 871, 177.87 Russia
636.87

"It is easy to imagine the state of affairs which existed in the remote province of Yakutsk, and what kind of classic literature was there taught to the Yakuts. After thirteen years, permission was given to open a school for modern subjects without classics. Education has now made great strides in Yakutsk, I even know several Yakuts who went in carts by a slow and tedious journey to Tomsk, 4,500 versts from Yakutsk, and there studied at the university, afterwards passing the examination with great distinction. The late Governor of Yakutsk, Svetlitsky (afterwards transferred to Irkutsk), was especially kind to the students, and after his departure sincere grief was long felt by everyone. Every Yakut knows of Governor Svetlitsky, who was the most humane and enlightened of men, and whose influence had an ennobling effect even upon the rough people whom travellers meet in Yakutsk."

/254 cont./

241 The results of the agriculture in the province of Jakutsk are, to be sure, not so favorable, according to the official data furnished by the isprawnik /ispravnik/. I shall give here only the annual totals, whereas the report is much more detailed. The numbers refer to Russian chetvert (a grain measure = 2.1 hectoliters):

	Sowing	Harvest
1870:	5,131	20,229
1871:	6,050	12,614
1872:	5,682	19,725
1873:	6,621	14,388
1874:	6,708	35,259

According to this, the yield would be only twofold to fivefold, which, however, is by no means the case. The largest part 241 of the agricultural population, the Jakuten /Yakut/, intentionally 648 deceive the officials in every respect concerning their yield, so that favorable reports on the harvest may not be taken as an excuse /255/ to settle exiles in their district, against whom they have supreme contempt. The Skoptsy, on the other hand, who, as was said above, immediately devote themselves to agriculture with great diligence wherever they settle, falsify their statements about their harvests in order to drive up the market prices. Vegetables of all kinds, even cucumbers and, in hothouses, melons and watermelons, are cultivated with great success. I myself enjoyed excellent preserved cauliflower, the heads of which are said to become very large.

• 871 The bitter cold lasting during our entire stay and our health, greatly affected by the rigors of the journey, prevented us from seeing various points of interest in the city, except for a few churches and, among other things, the classical Progymnasium, in which Russian and Jakut boys are prepared for further training in the Irkutsk Gymnasium. The institution has four classes; Greek and Latin are required subjects. I myself, to be sure, am an advocate of classical learning and cannot imagine a true scholar without it, but I cannot now or ever approve of such a carrying out of the classical system as took

/255 cont./

171 place in the most remote corners of Russia under the former Minister for the Englightenment of the Masses, Count Tolstoí. Institutions of classical learning are, in my opinion, useful only for future scholars, and even though, in view of the very able mental abilities of the Jakuten /Yakut/, from all that I have heard, one or another Jakut youth may perhaps occasionally succeed in reaching the university, especially if wishes or even promises are made known from above, nevertheless, schools of a more technical nature, trade schools, agricultural schools, or commercial schools, would be more appropriate. It is /256/ by no means an exception, but rather the rule that the local Progymnasium accepts boys who must learn Russian and Latin simultaneously and, since the latter language is decidedly the easier one, soon understand the meaning of the Latin assignments, but are able to express it only in Jakut. This has been asserted to me by eye witnesses. Technical schools are predominantly needed throughout Siberia, where especially agriculture, commerce, and industry must be built up as quickly as possible. Under Count Tolstoí, as I was told in Jenisseisk /Yeniseisk/, a petition of the merchants there to found a technical school at their own expense was refused. Later, as far as I know, a classical Progymnasium was even built. I cannot become enthusiastic either about the idea of a Siberian university, which is supposed to be opened soon, but seems to me premature -- a polytechnical school would certainly more adequately answer the needs of the country.

800 Of the other points of interest in Jakutsk one must mention the remains of the fortress, which was erected by the Cossacks after their occupation of the country, for protection against the attacks of the Jakuten. Built out of magnificent larch trunks such as are no longer to be found in the entire vicinity, they have lasted almost two and a half centuries, and part of them have even been used for constructing a building, if I remember correctly, the very handsome clubhouse.

53:Tokarev and Gurvich E-4 (no date) 1964
RV2 Yakut RV2

number of (ecclesiastical) books were published in Yakut. After the 1905 revolution, artistic and journalistic literature in Yakut began to appear.

Nevertheless, education remained on a low level among the broad Yakut masses. There were no Yakut national schools. Russian church and state schools began to appear in Yakutiya in the 18th century, but there were very few of them. Even in the early 1900's, there were only 11 rural primary schools in all of Yakutiya, and 57 parish and literacy schools. The masses had little access to these schools, and still less to the secondary schools; there were only 5 of these, and they were located only in cities. Of the Yakuts, it was mainly the children of toyons who could get into them.

Nevertheless, even at the end of the 19th century, a small Yakut intelligentsia began to appear—teachers, officials, lawyers and doctors, who had chiefly received education at Tomsk University. From among this intelligentsia there emerged individual amateurs of local history and folklore—the first Yakut ethnographers and collectors. But by their class affiliation and ideology, these first Yakut intellectuals were inclined to the toyon camp, and were infected with nationalism. Alongside this bourgeois-toyon intelligentsia, there appeared in the last years preceding the October Revolution, under the influence of Social-Democratic and Bolshevist propaganda by political exiles (particularly in the circle led by Yemelyan Yaroslavskiy), a small nucleus of progressive Russian cultural workers.

Socialist Reconstruction

Formation of Yakut ASSR

In Yakutiya, just as throughout the country, the establishment of the Soviet regime involved a fierce struggle against internal and external enemies. In the autumn of 1918 power was seized in Yakutsk by the followers of Kolchak with the help of the Mensheviks and Social Revolutionaries.[6] Hardly had the Yakutsk workers had time to overthrow the counterrevolutionary regime of Kolchak (December 15, 1919) when there flared up, particularly in the autumn of 1921, the kulak and White Guard revolts, led by tsarist officers and Yakut toyons who had been hiding in the remoter areas.

On February 16, 1922, the Presidium of the VTsIK (All-Union Central Executive Committee) adopted a resolution on the formation of the Yakut ASSR. On April 27, 1922, the Presidium, with M. I. Kalinin in the chair, reviewed this question again and decreed as follows: "To form a Yakut Autonomous Soviet Republic as a federal part of the RSFSR with its administrative center in Yakutsk."

In the autumn of 1922 the young Yakut Republic was faced with a serious threat: the American and Japanese imperialists had moved up General Pepelyayev's troops into Yakutya from Manchuria. The General received half a million rubles in gold from the American firm of Olaf Svenson and the British Hudson's Bay Company. The Americans and Japanese equipped Pepelyayev with weapons, ammunition and equipment. Food supplies and weapons were the responsibility of the Japanese

[6] The Mensheviks were a dissident wing of the Russian Social-Democratic Labor Party (RSDRP), which was also the parent organization of the Communist Party. The Social Revolutionaries (SR's) were moderate agrarian socialists; they participated in the government during the first months after the October Revolution.—Ed.

taken place in such forms of communication as radio, telegraph and telephone. Compared with 1940 the number of radio points in 1953 was more than doubled. By this time communication had been established between Yakutsk and rural localities and machine-tractor stations, and 225 nasleg soviets had been linked by telephone. Many rayons and nasleg soviets are now equipped with radios.

The extent of the postal routes is 65,000 kilometers, practically twice the length of the equator.

Towns and Cities

The capital of the Yakut ASSR is the city of Yakutsk, which used to be the oblast center. Here are concentrated the most important Yakut Republic offices, ministries, banks, scientific institutes, and higher and secondary schools. During the Soviet period Yakutsk has been turned into a major industrial center. The water system laid in Yakutsk has the deepest water-intake point in the world. The problem of obtaining subsoil water for this water system was an extremely difficult one because of the permafrost. Engineers worked hard to solve this problem even before the Revolution, though never successfully. Soviet technicians and working people have solved it. Subpermafrost water is now fed into the main water supply. Stone bathhouses, mechanized laundries, barbershops and other such enterprises for the personal use of the population did not come into being until the Soviet regime. The streets of the city are paved with wood blocks and sidewalks have been constructed. Yakutsk is rapidly developing.

Over the last few years Yakutsk has been changing from wooden buildings to brick and sometimes reinforced concrete buildings. Bus routes between the city and neighboring regions are now in operation.

In Yakutsk there are 22 secondary, seven-year and primary schools. They are attended by about 9000 children. In the city there are 16 tekhnikums, various courses, and a pedagogical institute, a Yakut Theatre of Music and Drama, a Russian drama theatre, two movie houses and seven clubs. The Pushkin Science Library, the Yaroslavskiy Yakutsk Regional Museum and the Yakutsk Museum of Fine Arts are great favorites with the citizens.

There are hospitals in the city and it is also there that the research institutes and laboratories are to be found. In 1947 a research base of the USSR Academy of Sciences was opened there, and in 1949 it was turned into the Yakutsk branch of the Academy. In the same year there was opened a Yakutsk branch of the Tuberculosis Institute of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Agriculture

In pre-Revolutionary Yakutiya the poor and middle peasant families totaled more than 80 percent of all households. One-seventh of all the households were entirely without sowings, and many were only able to sow a few hundredths of a hectare each. Most of the households (97 percent) had to do without factory-made agricultural implements. Stockbreeding produced extremely poor results. The owners of large areas of land and abundant livestock i.e.,—the kulaks and toyons, grew rich, but not so much by raising the level of land cultivation and animal husbandry as by exploiting the poor and middle peasants.

53:Tokarev and Gurvich E-4 (no date) 1964
RV2 Yakut RV2

and the Stalin farm in the Megino-Kangalasskiy Rayon. The first of these barely numbered 10 households in the 30's when first organized, but now unites 265 individual households. This collective farm has many different branches. It has 1200 hectares of ploughland, 3000 hectares of meadowland, 2700 hectares of pastureland, and upward of 3000 head of livestock. The collective farm has seven subsidiary farms for dairy-farming, horse-breeding, reindeer-breeding, poultry and pigs. Since 1953, fox and rabbit have been reared on it. The farm has two power stations. The electricity is used for purposes of illumination, threshing and cleaning the seed, grinding grain and sawing wood. An electric milking system for the cows is being introduced.

Well-designed houses, schools and hospitals have been constructed in the collective-farm settlement. It has its own club, library and radio-relay station. A park has been made near the settlement, and there is also a stadium. Films are shown regularly and amateur concerts are often organized.

The Stalin collective farm in the Megino-Kangalasskiy Rayon became the largest collective farm in the Republic as soon as the neighboring collectives merged with it. By government decree, it is the possessor of 67,000 hectares of land, of which 2798 hectares are ploughland, and almost 11,000 constitute meadowland and pastures. The remaining land is taken up by forests. The collective farm sows almost 800 hectares of wheat, 720 hectares of spring and winter rye, more than 250 hectares of oats and bareley, and 55 hectares of vegetables and potatoes. In 1955 there were about 3500 head of cattle on the farm, more than 1200 horses, 250 reindeer, and more than 100 pigs; furthermore, the collective farm has a subsidiary poultry farm and a section for breeding fur-bearing animals.

At the present time the collective farm has three small power stations with a total output of 125 kilowatts. The electricity is used for threshing grain, driving a sawmill and operating lathes. In view of the increased generation of electricity the farm has mechanized the delivery of fodder to the byres. There are more than 500 different types of machines, 6 trucks, 2 passenger cars and 12 engines on the farm.

In 1955, the farm's income was 2,700,000 rubles. The material status of the farmers has been considerably improved.

At the same time their cultural standards have increased.

There is not one single illiterate person on the farm: 120 farmers have a secondary education or higher, 10 of them are studying at universities and 165 in tekhnikums and secondary schools. Many of the collective-farm members return to their own farms after receiving their education.

Great progress has been attained by the northern farms of the Nizhne-Kolymskiy, Bulunskiy, Olenekskiy, Anabarskiy and other rayons. Their achievements are due to the overall reorganization of reindeer-breeding and the trapping industry. On many of the farms there are Yakuts, Evenks, Chukchi and other minorities all working together.

Socialization of the reindeer and the creation of large herds has made it possible to introduce such veterinary measures as stage-by-stage nomadizing based on the rotation of pastureland, inoculations, and day and night guarding of the herds. In the past Yakutiyan reindeer-herders never made use of dogs, which, for example, among the Nentsy make the work of the herdsmen easier. Nowadays reindeer-herding dogs are used extensively in the Nizhne-Kolymskiy, Allaikhovskiy and Bulunskiy Rayons.

The northern collective farms have not confined themselves to the traditional branches of economy, namely, reindeer-breeding, hunting and fishing, and are courageously developing new branches. On most of the

53:Tokarev and Gurvich E-4 (no date) 1964
RV2 Yakut RV2

562 1949, 55 women were working as rural soviet chairmen. About 500 girls from Yakutiya are studying at different universities in the country. In the northern regions there were once hunters who used not even to mention the word "hunting" in front of women because of superstitious belief, but now there are even women hunters; the present figure is as many as 1000 women hunters and fishers. Many of them have gained the title of "advanced hunter."

Education

●871 During the tsarist regime hardly any Yakuts were literate.[8] As soon as the Soviet regime had been consolidated, school construction was developed on a wide scale, as shown by the following table:

Schools	1917	1948
Primary	164	424
7-year	5	149
Secondary	4	30
Total	173	603

In 1917 there were 4660 children at school, but by 1948 the number was 62,942.

In the 1951-1952 academic year there were more than 600 schools functioning in the Yakut Republic, attended by about 66,000 pupils. In the 1955-56 academic year there were 20,000 pupils living in dormitories. When Yakutiya received its autonomy by a decision of the Council of Ministers of the Yakut ASSR, instruction in primary schools was changed to the Yakut language. This made it easier for Yakut schoolchildren to master their [191] subjects. From 1933 on, the teaching of all subjects in the 5th to 7th classes was switched to the Yakut language.

19 The teaching of main subjects in schools in the vernacular not only 212 helped the pupils to acquire knowledge, but also furthered the rapid development of the Yakut language and the solution of problems of terminology and orthography. From 1933 to 1947, about 400 book titles were published in the Yakut language in overall editions of several million copies.

874 Three teacher's schools and one pedagogical institute turn out trained [875] teachers for the Yakut Republic. In 1955 there were more than 4500 teachers, which was 15 times more than in 1917. The 17 tekhnikums and special secondary schools are attended by more than 3000 students. These academic establishments train teachers, agronomists, ship mechanics, lawyers, technicians, etc. A 2-year Communist Party School has been opened in Yakutsk and a Marxist-Leninist University. More than 1000 Yakuts are studying at universities of Moscow, Leningrad and Irkutsk.

Yakutiya has also trained its own scientific personnel. About 70 scientists have the degree of Candidate in Science in the fields of history, pedagogy, philology, agriculture, and other subjects. There are also doctors of science.

212 In 1942 Yakutiya celebrated the end of illiteracy among the adult population. Over the years of the Soviet regime more than 155,000 illiterate

[8] This conflicts with other data indicating the existence of a pre-Revolutionary Yakut intelligentsia of some dimensions and influence.—Ed.

people have been taught to read and write. Work continues with those who are only partially literate in the network of adult schools. 212

In 1917 there were only two clubs, three small libraries and one museum in Yakutiya. In 1951 the Republic had more than 1000 educational-cultural establishments, among which there were about 500 reading rooms, several hundred libraries and 5 museums. At the present time there are Party schools in all rayons. In 1948, 986 amateur music and entertainment groups were functioning in the various clubs. There are regular amateur art exhibitions in the clubs and houses of culture. In the north, e.g., the Anabarskiy, Olenekskiy and other rayons,—Red tents with mobile film units have been set up for the population of the tundra. 217 178 871

Public Health

Planned medical assistance was not provided for the population of Yakutiya until the coming of the Soviet regime. By 1927 there were 37 hospitals, 50 medical-assistant points with 627 beds, and 20 outpatient clinics in the Republic. Over the years of the Five-Year Plans the medical network has been greatly increased. There are now more than 630 medical establishments in the Republic, which employ 500 doctors and more than 2500 personnel with intermediate medical training. 743

An important health center has been created in Yakutsk. The Republic hospital with 500 beds consists of several large standard blocks. It is fitted out with the latest medical equipment. There are also a number of specialized hospitals in Yakutiya. The 33 epidemiological stations and bacteriological laboratories are working hard; more than 500 clinical laboratories have been set up. Vaccination against measles, tularemia, etc. is carried out at a number of laboratories. Since 1940 medical assistance has been given to the population of the most remote parts of the Republic by aircraft. Flying surgeons performed 183 operations in the year 1951 alone. 743 744

The Yakuts have made great progress in safeguarding pregnant mothers and infants. In 1924 the first obstetric consultation office in the Republic was opened. In 1940 there were 9 state-owned maternity homes, 37 collective farm maternity homes and 37 permanent nurseries in service. In 1952 the number of nurseries had been raised to 82, with accommodation for 2644 children. 743 843 844

Particular attention has been given by the Yakut government to the campaign against a legacy of the past, i.e., such social diseases as tuberculosis and trachoma. A wide network of medical and disease-prevention establishments has been set up. Every man, woman and child undergoes tests for tuberculosis, and practically all the regional hospitals are equipped with X-ray apparatus. Antitubercular inoculation is normal practice. 744

In 1924 a special brigade was sent to Yakutiya from the center to make a study of different parts of the Yakut ASSR on the prevalence of trachoma. In 1945 the first trachoma clinic was opened. The incidence of trachoma has sharply declined as a result of tremendous work in preventive medicine and hygiene education; blindness due to trachoma has been reduced to nil. In many places there have been set up interrayon centers where specialized medical aid can be obtained. There are two mudbath resorts in Yakutiya. [164]

The number of medical officials has sharply increased. In 1952, as compared with 1922, the number of doctors had increased by a factor of 30, while there were 26 times more personnel with intermediate medical training. 759

55:Popov E-5 (no date) 1964 RV2 Yakut RV2
Dolgan

291
342
871 ●
361

Kindergarten on a walk. Taymyr National Okrug, Khatangskiy Rayon.

families, but on the initiative of the collective-farm administration, and their routes are determined in the same way. Fishing brigades sent to fish in some river or lake lead a settled life there, partly in houses built by the collective farm at the fishing grounds. 221 226 474

[The Dolgans, particularly the descendants of the tundra peasants, had Russian cottages even before the Revolution. They now build sturdy houses, using both imported lumber and driftwood. The old-fashioned pole tent is now used only in the summer. 177 342

[The Dolgan diet now includes bread, flour, and tea, boiled strong and taken with sugar. Supplies are brought in regularly to the local stores. Medical aid is available at 40 medical and medical-assistant points. The Dolgan-Yakut population is served by hospitals at Noril'sk and in the settlements of Chernoye, Volochanka and Khatanga. In 1953 there were 52 schools, including 3 seven-year schools, in the Taymyr National Okrug. The Dolgan-Yakut population is served by schools at Chernoye, Dolgany, Volochanka, Kheta, Khatanga, Popigay and other points. 177 262 743 871